

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017
6:30 P. M.

A regular meeting was held by City Council on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. over which Mayor Bobby L. Davis presided. Council members Michael Baker, Ralph Atkinson, Ronald Atkinson, Odessa Gregg and Joseph Frazier were present. Councilman Emerson Hunt was not in attendance. Also present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Clerk Pam Jones and City Attorney Kenneth Davis.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Gregg gave the opening prayer. Mr. Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Davis welcomed citizens, guests and the press. (Hometown TV).

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 13, 2016, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Ms. Pansy Brown of the Marion Recreation Department was, was named *December Employee of the Month* and received a gift certificate. Mayor Davis stated that MS. Brown was doing an excellent job at the Recreation Center.

The Mayor's Monthly Beautification award was presented to the Community Service Workers from the Department of Probation and Parole. They work to help keep the City beautiful.

Mrs. Brenda Jackson from Kenneth Cobb & Company was present to give the Audit Review. The City received a clean opinion which is the best that can be received. Mrs. Jackson thanked Council for the opportunity to serve as auditor for the past year and also thanked the staff for their hard work. She presented Council with a review of the audit report and encouraged Council to stop her at any point if there were questions. The City received an unqualified opinion, a clean opinion, which is the top opinion you can receive. She gave an overview of the City of Marion's budget and highlighted important areas. She stated that the General Fund Balance at Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016 was \$5.7 million. (A copy of the audit is available at City Hall) After completing her presentation, Mayor Davis thanked Mrs. Jackson for the detailed report and commented that this was one of the best ones we have ever had.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the audit, seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion that a resolution be prepared for Representative Wayne George, seconded by Councilwoman Odesa Gregg; motion carried.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion that a resolution be prepared for Mr. Bill Johnson, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to accept the bid from Donny Gerald for \$14,875 for a used Pickup Truck for the Fire Department, Councilwoman Odessa Gregg seconded. Mr. Ammons stated that the insurance would reimburse. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Regarding the Storm Damage Update, Mr. Ammons stated that January 5th would be the completion of the vegetation pickup from the storm damage. Work will continue on stumps and tree trucks for approximately 30 more days and there is no stop time for C & D, it will continue until complete. Councilman Ralph Atkinson commented that there numerous trees, stumps and limbs still all over town in the right-of-way. Mr. Ammons commented the state may still help us with those, but the debris now being brought out from behind peoples' houses will have to be picked up at the City's expense. Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson inquired as to how the trees on the public right-of-way that fell onto resident's property would be handled. Mr. Ammons responded that DOT would ask for the owner's permission for them to go onto the property and remove those trees. Mayor Davis commented that we would not be reimbursed for everything, but we would apply to try and get as much back as we possibly can. Mr. Ammons commented that he and Mrs. Brown met with a FEMA rep and they were in the process of determining how much overtime was used so that we can get some of that back. Mr. Ammons further commented that we would keep applying until we get everything back that we can. Mr. Ammons reminded that the SEI forms were due by March 30. M. Page has been working on getting a movie to show at the Opera House and Mr. Ammons will let everyone know the Title and date of the movie as soon as he is notified. Mayor Davis commented that this is what was tried for the Senior Council last year, but it didn't work out for a number of reasons, one being the unavailability of certain movies.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

City Attorney Davis reminded that the SEI forms were due by March 30 and must be done electronically. Councilman Ralph Atkinson commented that they had been done electronically for the past 3 years.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Davis reminded that Departmental Reports were included in Council's packets.

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FROM COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Councilwoman Odessa Gregg had no comment at this time.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson commented that Walnut Street, from Jones Avenue to Northside Avenue, has become a dumping ground for trash. The trash is being placed there like it a designated spot to leave trash. It is being picked up by Tom and Geraline Brown, who live on the corner of Northside and Walnut and they deserve thanks for keeping that area clean. Is there anything the City can do to stop this from being used as a trash dump? Mayor Davis responded that we can ask the Neighborhood Watch in that area to keep an eye out and let the City know if they see any dumping going on. Mayor Pro-tem Atkinson requested that a police car be left at the sub-station on Jones Avenue to at least give the appearance of someone being there.

Councilman Joseph Frazier asked what could be done with Thomas Trailer Park and Mr. Ammons responded that trailer park will not be coming back. Due to the severe damage from the flood, the property will be cleared out. The City will get the C & D stuff out to the road and SCDOT will haul it off.

Councilman Michael Baker commented that he would get with Mr. Ammons.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis reminded everyone that the Martin Luther King Unity March would be held on January 16th, beginning at the Methodist Church parking lot. The March will begin around 10 a.m. and end at the Door of Hope, where a program will be presented. Bishop Blue will provide a bus to take any walkers back to the Methodist Church. Mayor Davis stressed that this is a unity march, not a protest of

any kind. Mayor Davis commented that he is proud of the fact that the Auditor said the City was in good shape. We know that we will have to spend more this year if we don't get the reimbursements that we should get for cutting down trees that we have to cut down, because they are rotten all the way through. We want to have a strong relationship with all of Marion County and want to continue to strengthen that. The Marion County Mayor's Coalition works together very well for the good our residents. Councilman Frazier commented that Reedy Creek Baptist Church has been at Grice's giving out clothes to those in need. He would like a letter sent thanking them for what they are doing for our community. Mayor Davis commented that Mr. Randy Brown's sister is the person responsible for getting this clothing drive together and they are doing a wonderful job in helping our residents. Reverend Larry Williams brought a tractor trailer load of food and gave away 50 lb. bags of potatoes, in addition to other food stuff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the City Clerk position, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Ronald Atkinson; motion carried. Upon returning from Executive Session, Mayor Davis stated that no action was taken. Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion return to open session, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson; motion carried.

Mayor Bobby L. Davis

City Clerk Pam Jones

Taped: January 10, 2017